

December 21, 2004

Gary M. Jackson Assistant Administrator for Size Standards Small Business Administration 409 Third Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20416

Dear Mr. Jackson:

We strongly oppose an exclusion from affiliation for venture capital companies in determining small business eligibility in the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program.

This would allow companies that are owned by large venture capital companies to access SBIR funds. Many of the venture funds are funded by large entities with direct or indirect access to public financing. It would be a subterfuge; it would be false and misleading to consider these large venture funds as small businesses.

Further, it would discriminate against communities that do not have local venture capitalists or access to venture capital.

Very truly yours

Phyllis B. Siege

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John Cornyn U.S. Senator 517 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

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Kay Bailey Hutchison U.S. Senator 284 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

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